

river at Council Bluffs, within this State, which will prevent steamboats from passing under it at any stage of water without resorting to a draw.

Resolved, That the Secretary of State be instructed to send a copy of this preamble and joint resolution to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress.

Approved March 26, 1868.

NUMBER X.

FOR CONNECTING THE MISSISSIPPI WITH LAKE MICHIGAN, THROUGH FOX AND WISCONSIN RIVERS.

A MEMORIAL to Congress in Relation to the Project of Connecting by Navigable Channels through the Fox and Wisconsin Rivers, the Waters of the Mississippi River with the Waters of Lake Michigan.

To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, in Congress assembled :

THE MEMORIAL OF THE LEGISLATURE OF IOWA RESPECTFULLY REPRESENTS :—That the project of connecting the Mississippi river and Lake Michigan, by navigable channels through the Fox and Wisconsin rivers, has heretofore received the attention of Congress. Its growing importance to the country, the North-West, and the State, becomes each year more apparent.

The subject of connecting the Mississippi and the Lakes, has been considered by the people, met in local, county, State and national conventions, by boards of trade, and by the legislatures and governors of States, and without exceptions, by resolution, memorial, and message, all have united in recognizing its importance, and in urging upon Congress attention and action in relation thereto. The character of the undertaking is alike apparent to Congress, the legislatures, and the people. It is rendered necessary as a military measure, to protect, against inroad and attack, a frontier extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific; as a commercial measure, to enlarge the already inadequate outlets for an increasing commerce, thereby lifting from freights, and ultimately from the people, extortionate tariffs; and, as a measure otherwise national, to establish, out of avenues of intercourse and trade, bonds of national unity.

Whatever can be said of the national importance of connecting these waters by any channel, is equally true in reference to this channel. Nature unaided has, by way of the Fox and Wisconsin rivers, almost effected the desired connection. Aided by a few

dams and locks, and altogether not to exceed five miles of canal, a channel, having, in all but extraordinary stages of low water, a navigable depth of four feet for one - third of the way, and nearly three feet for the remainder, reaching a distance of over one hundred and fifty miles from Green Bay, upon Lake Michigan, to Portage City, upon the Wisconsin, has been opened to regular commerce. Boats of light draft, in the ordinary stages of water, can now pass from Lake Michigan to Portage City, and down the Wisconsin into the Mississippi river.

Boats of three and four feet draft, have, in stages of high water, repeatedly made the passage. Late in June, 1867, the Brooklyn, a steamboat of three hundred tons burden, loaded at Green Bay, and without detention, delivered her cargo at the Port of St. Paul. Estimates of the cost of deepening and completing this channel have been made under the direction of Congress, by Maj. Gen. G. K. Warren. His report (other than preliminary) has not been, or, if made, has not been seen by your memorialist. But, judging from the present condition of the work, the conformation of the country, the nature of the materials at hand, and the supply of water, your memorialist is constrained to believe that the cost will be comparatively inexpensive, and may not exceed, for a channel of four feet in low water, one - fourth, or of six feet, two - thirds, or of nine feet, three - fourths, of the cost of like channel in any other State. The quantity of water and the size of the locks are greater than in the Erie canal, permitting the passage of flat-bottomed and larger boats, so that a depth of four feet in the rivers is estimated for the purposes of commerce, equal to at least six feet in the canal, an estimate strengthened by the fact that the motive on the canal is horse - power, and on the river steam.

With the channel extended to the Mississippi, and reduced to a uniform low water depth of four feet, commerce will find relief in an outlet, with capacity little less than the Erie canal. Estimating the average price per bushel for moving grain by rail, from the Mississippi to Lake Michigan, at twenty - nine cents, and by water not to exceed fourteen cents; and estimating the quantity of grain exported yearly from Minnesota, at ten millions of bushels, from Iowa twenty, Wisconsin fifteen, and Northern Illinois fifteen,—in all sixty millions of bushels; and upon the movement eastward of this, a single crop, the saving will be nine millions of dollars. Add to this the saving upon the western freights, and it appears, that in a single year, a sum will be saved exceeding four - fold, the probable cost of the work. It may be said that coming in competition with railroads, the grain will not go all by water, and therefore, the estimate is incorrect. Whether moved by rail or water, the grain must go at approximately water rates. The navigable water which it is proposed to improve and develop, and the carrying places between the same, are common highways, declared such by the ordinance of 1787, and are of the class of navigable waters,

over which the general government has invariably retained control, and to improve which it has long been its policy to make appropriations.

For these reasons, your memorialist respectfully invites the attention of Congress to the subject, and while a necessity for economy in the administration of public affairs is apparent, yet in the opinion of your memorialist, the pressing importance of an early completion of this work will justify Congress, at its present session, in undertaking the same. Be it therefore

Resolved by the General Assembly of Iowa, That the Governor be, and is hereby authorized and requested to affix his official signature hereto, and forward a copy of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to each of our senators and representatives in the Congress of the United States.

Approved March 31, 1868.

NUMBER XI.

RATIFYING AMENDMENTS TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION.

JOINT RESOLUTION Agreeing to, Ratifying, and Confirming Amendments to the State Constitution.

WHEREAS, The Eleventh General Assembly of the State of Iowa did, in due form, by a majority of the members elected to each of the two houses, agree to proposed amendments to the constitution as follows:

1st. Strike the word "White" from section 1 of article 2 thereof;

2d. Strike the word "White" from section 33 of article 3 thereof;

3d. Strike the word "White" from section 34 of article 3 thereof;

4th. Strike the word "White" from section 35 of article 3 thereof;

5th. Strike the word "White" from section 1 of article 6 thereof;

and entered the same on the journals thereof, and referred the same to the legislature to be chosen at the next general election, and the same having been published, as provided by law, for three months previous to the time of making the choice of this the Twelfth General Assembly: therefore,